

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10, 12-15, 17-30 and 39-66 are pending in the application. Claims 22-30, 40, 53, 57 and 65 are amended by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found at least at pp. 80-81 of the originally filed disclosure. No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 22-30, 40, 53, 57 and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; Claims 1-4, 8, 12, 13, 18, 22, 23, 27, 39-44 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Wu (U.S. 6,442,570); and Claims 5-7, 9-10, 14-15, 17, 19-21, 24-26, 28-30, 45-47, 49-50 and 63-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wu in view of Takahashi (U.S. 6,931,531).

The Office Action rejects Claims 22-30, 40, 53, 57 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as directed to non-statutory subject matter, asserting that the claims could be directed to a signal.

In response, Claims 22-30, 40, 53, 57 and 65 are amended to recite that the computer-readable medium is “non-transitory”.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 22-30, 40, 53, 57 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-4, 8, 12, 13, 18, 22, 23, 27, 39-44 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Wu. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as independent Claims 1, 12, 22 and 39-41 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 41, for example, recites, in part, a personal computer having a function to transfer a subset of a plurality of pieces of content data to a portable media player connected to the personal computer, the personal computer comprising:

a recording unit configured to store the plurality of pieces of content data to a storage medium;

a graphical user interface configured to receive an input selecting whether the personal computer automatically transfers the subset of the plurality of pieces of content data stored in said storage medium to the portable media player via a direct local connection for storage at the portable media player; and

a communications interface configured to automatically transfer the subset of the plurality of pieces of content data stored in the storage medium to the portable media player via a direct local connection without regard to a user input designating the subset of the plurality of pieces of content data ***when the input received at the graphical user interface*** is to automatically transfer the subset of the plurality of pieces of content data stored in said storage medium to the portable media player via the direct local connection for storage at the portable media player.

Independent Claims 1, 12 and, 22, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1, 12, 22 and 41.

Turning to the applied reference, Wu describes a synchronization system that synchronizes database objects between a portable computer and a desktop computer. Wu, however, fails to teach or suggest that the desktop computer includes a graphical user interface (GUI) configured to receive an input selecting whether a subset of stored data is automatically transferred from the desktop computer 102 to the portable computer 100, as recited in independent Claim 41.

In rejecting the claimed features directed to receiving the user input, p. 4 of the Office Action relies on various portions of Wu, which are discussed below.

Col. 3, l. 40 – col. 4, l. 16 of Wu describes that the portable computer 100 includes a portable synchronization manager 104, which is responsible for coordinating synchronization of objects stored on the portable computer 100 with objects on a base computer 102. This passage of Wu further describes that when one entry is created in a database of either device, this entry is duplicated to the other device during synchronization. Col. 5, ll. 46-61 of Wu describes that a communications link between the base computer 102 and portable computer

100 is used to exchange data between the devices. Finally, col. 10, l. 57 – col. 11, l. 20 of Wu describes the various types of data that may be synchronized between the two devices, and that a specific application (i.e., “SyncData”) is called by the desktop computer 102 to either send data to the portable computer 100 or retrieve data from the portable computer. Wu fails to disclose what triggers the launch of the “SyncData” application, much less that the application is automatically launched based on a received user input.

Wu, therefore, merely describes that an object synchronization process occurs between the desktop computer 102 and the portable computer, and that a specific piece of software is used to perform the synchronization. Thus, Wu fails to disclose that the automatic synchronization is performed based on an input received at a user interface of the desktop computer 102. More specifically, at no point does Wu disclose that the desktop computer 102 includes “a graphical user interface configured to *receive an input selecting whether the personal computer automatically transfers the subset of the plurality of pieces of content data ... to the portable media player ...*” and “a communications interface configured to automatically transfer the subset of the plurality of pieces of content data ... to the portable media player ... without regard to a user input designating the subset of the plurality of pieces of content data *when the input received at the graphical user interface is to automatically transfer the subset of the plurality of pieces of content data ...*”, as recited in independent Claim 41.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 41 (and the claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, it is also submitted that independent Claims 1, 12 and 22 (and the claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

Further, the Office Action again fails to address the features of independent Claims 39 and 40. In rejecting these claims, p. 6 of the Office Action asserts that these claims are

rejected “for the same reason as discussed in the corresponding claim 1 above.” Claims 39 and 40, however, recite features, which are clearly distinct from those recited in independent Claim 1, and which are not disclosed by Wu.

Independent Claim 39, for example, recites an information processing method carried out in an personal computer having a function to transfer a plurality of pieces of contents to a portable media player via a direct local connection for storage at the portable media player connected to the personal computer, the method comprising:

recording the plurality of contents to a memory; and
controlling, each time at least one of the plurality of pieces of contents is recorded, transferring of the recorded plurality of pieces of content to the connected portable media player via the direct local connection for storage at the portable media player *while recording other contents not yet recorded to the memory*.

Independent Claim 40, while directed to an alternative embodiment, recites similar features.

As noted above, independent Claims 39 and 40 specify that the recorded content is transferred *while recording other contents not yet recorded to the memory*. Clearly, this feature is not required by independent Claim 1, and Wu fails to teach or suggest such a feature.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 5-7, 9-10, 14-15, 17, 19-21, 24-26, 28-30, 45-47, 49-50 and 63-66 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wu in view of Takahashi, each of these claims depend from one of independent Claims 1, 12, 22 and 41, and are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Moreover, Takahashi fails to remedy the above noted deficiencies of Wu.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 5-7, 9-10, 14-15, 17, 19-21, 24-26, 28-30, 45-47, 49-50 and 63-66 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the comments above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application including Claims 1-10, 12-15, 17-30 and 39-66 is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

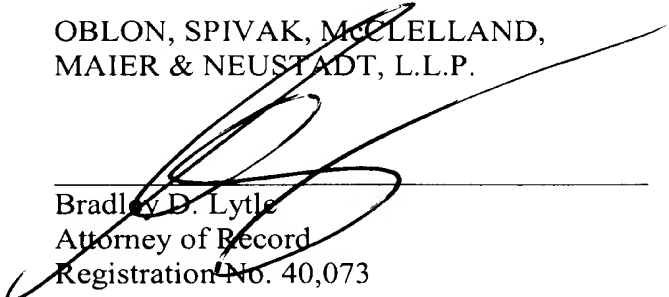
Respectfully submitted,

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